

**CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY:**  
**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2018**

President Graham Harker opened the meeting at 19.30 hours and welcomed the 14 members present. He invited **Nigel Chandler** to present his display on **Tobago**.



Tobago was discovered by Christopher Columbus on 13 August 1498 but he didn't land there and it was another 17 years before the first Europeans arrived. Tobago is a small island in the Caribbean approximately 30 miles long by 6 miles wide. It changed hands 31 times before finally becoming British in 1814.

The display began with a GB stamp cancelled by the Tobago Bar Oval 14 handstamp. This was followed by the first stamps, issued on 1 July 1879, but these were for fiscal purposes. From 1 August 1879 it was decided that these could be used for postage. They ran out of the 1d value and 6d values were bisected and 1 penny written on them. In December 1880 the first stamps inscribed postage were produced and in 1883 Tobago joined the UPU for which they needed a 2½d stamp. As they still had an

excess of 6d stamps these were surcharged 2½d locally.

This was the beginning of a long period of the island running out of stamps largely caused by them being printed in Great Britain and taking such a long time to get there. There was an outstanding selection of overprints including large blocks, varieties, errors and flaws. There were examples of Tobago stamps used in other islands which included forgeries.

The second half of the display was mainly postal history including a Tobago Fleuron, dated 21 February 1837 addressed to Glasgow. Unusual destinations included an 1895 1d reply paid card addressed to Montenegro and an 1896 1½d reply card used to San Marino. Only 5 of these used cards have been recorded.

Inter-island mail was also on display including a 2d slash flaw used on cover. Also we were treated to a St. Vincent stamp used in Tobago.

In 1899 Trinidad and Tobago came into being but stamps for this new Territory did not come into being until 1913.

President, Graham Harker gave the vote of thanks for such a comprehensive display and presented Nigel Chandler with a certificate and a bottle of wine. The meeting closed at 21.15 hours

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